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Thursday, January 5, 2017 www.metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: Metro

The young star of 'A Monster Calls' speaks. 15

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU

Classes for the artsy, fit and quirky. 18

Dozens injured in SEPTA trolley collision. 6

IN JOEL WE TRUST

Joel Embiid proclaimed himself 'The Process' this season, and he's more than lived up to the hype so far. 22

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1. Who is the target of a letter-of-protest signed by more than 30 local law school professors?

2. Which of the following players do we think could be traded before the NBA's trade deadline?

3. Which city in France has undergone a huge revitalization to become the country's new hot destination?

3 things you need to know

CALIFORNIA LAWMAKERS HIRE HOLDER FOR FIGHTS WITH TRUMP

1 Democratic lawmakers in the California legislature said on Wednesday they retained former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to help in any legal battles with President-elect Donald Trump's administration. The move is more evidence that lawmakers in the nation's most populous state, where Democrats hold two-thirds majorities in both houses of the legislature, are girding for possible court battles after Trump takes office on Jan. 20. Last month, leaders of both houses introduced bills to protect undocumented immigrants from anticipated efforts by a Trump administration to increase deportations. In addition, Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown has made combating climate change a priority for the state. "Mr. Holder and his team will serve as outside counsel to the Legislature, advising us in our efforts to resist any attempts to roll back the progress California has made," Kevin de León, the Democratic leader of the state Senate, said in a statement. REUTERS

SC CHURCH GUNMAN TELLS JURORS HE IS NOT MENTALLY ILL

2 White supremacist Dylann Roof, facing the death penalty for the hate-fueled killings of nine black churchgoers in South Carolina, told jurors at his federal trial on Wednesday that he is not mentally ill but did not say whether he wants to live. The 22-year-old said during a short opening statement that he was representing himself for the penalty phase in Charleston because he did not want the jury to hear any of the mental health evidence his lawyers had sought to introduce in an effort to spare him from execution. REUTERS

TESLA STARTS BATTERY CELL PRODUCTION AT GIGAFACTORY

3 Tesla Motors Inc. has started mass production of lithium-ion battery cells at its gigafactory in Nevada along with Japan's Panasonic Corp, the company said on Wednesday. The cylindrical "2170 cells," which will be used to power Tesla's energy storage products and the new Model 3 sedan, have been jointly designed by Tesla and Panasonic, its longstanding battery partner. The gigafactory will initially produce battery cells for the company's Powerwall 2 and Powerpack 2 energy products, Tesla said. The production of cells for Tesla's first mass-market car, the Model 3, is expected to begin in the second quarter. The company said the gigafactory will produce 35 gigawatt-hours per year of lithium-ion battery cells by 2018. REUTERS

Myriam Robinson, 51, a Philly corrections officer, is recovering from a concussion after being attacked by an inmate. COURTESY OF AFSCME LOCAL 159

Philly prisons to beef up transport security

An attack on a guard assigned to a prison bus sparked safety concerns.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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A Philadelphia corrections officer is recovering from a concussion after an inmate kicked her as she knelt to pick up his dropped Bible — an incident that is prompting a look at new security measures.

In response to the attack, the Philadelphia Prisons System is reviewing their security policies with a goal of expanding them, officials said.

The attack occurred around noon on Dec. 30 during a routine transport between correctional facilities.

Inmate Johnathan Hernandez, 20, dropped his Bible as he was exiting a bus transporting him from Curran-Fromhold Correction Facility to a detention center.

When Officer Myriam Robinson, 51, an 11-year veteran of the Department of Corrections, stooped to pick it up, Hernandez kneed her in the face, then kicked her, said Lorenzo North, president of AFSCME Local 159, which represents city corrections officers.

Robinson toppled backward and hit her head on the pavement. A second officer on the bus was able to quickly secure Hernandez.

"The police said he was planning on taking the bus," North said of Hernandez.

Robinson, who is off-duty while in recovery, declined to comment on the incident.

Prisons spokeswoman Shawn Hawes confirmed that as a direct result of this attack, new security measures are being explored.

Standard protocols call for two corrections officers serving on inmate transportation, with one doubling as driver. She said prison budgets could cover an increase in staffing.

"Unfortunately, in this profession, things like this happen," Hawes said. "We're just really happy that she wasn't severely injured and that nothing else happened."

North said he thinks adding another officer to inmate transports would help resolve the problem.

"The more officers, the less trouble you have," he said.

Hernandez, who is listed in court records as a resident of Oklahoma, has not yet been charged with the attack.

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State ordered to provide hepatitis C drugs to Mumia Abu-Jamal

Abu-Jamal was diagnosed with the viral infection last year.

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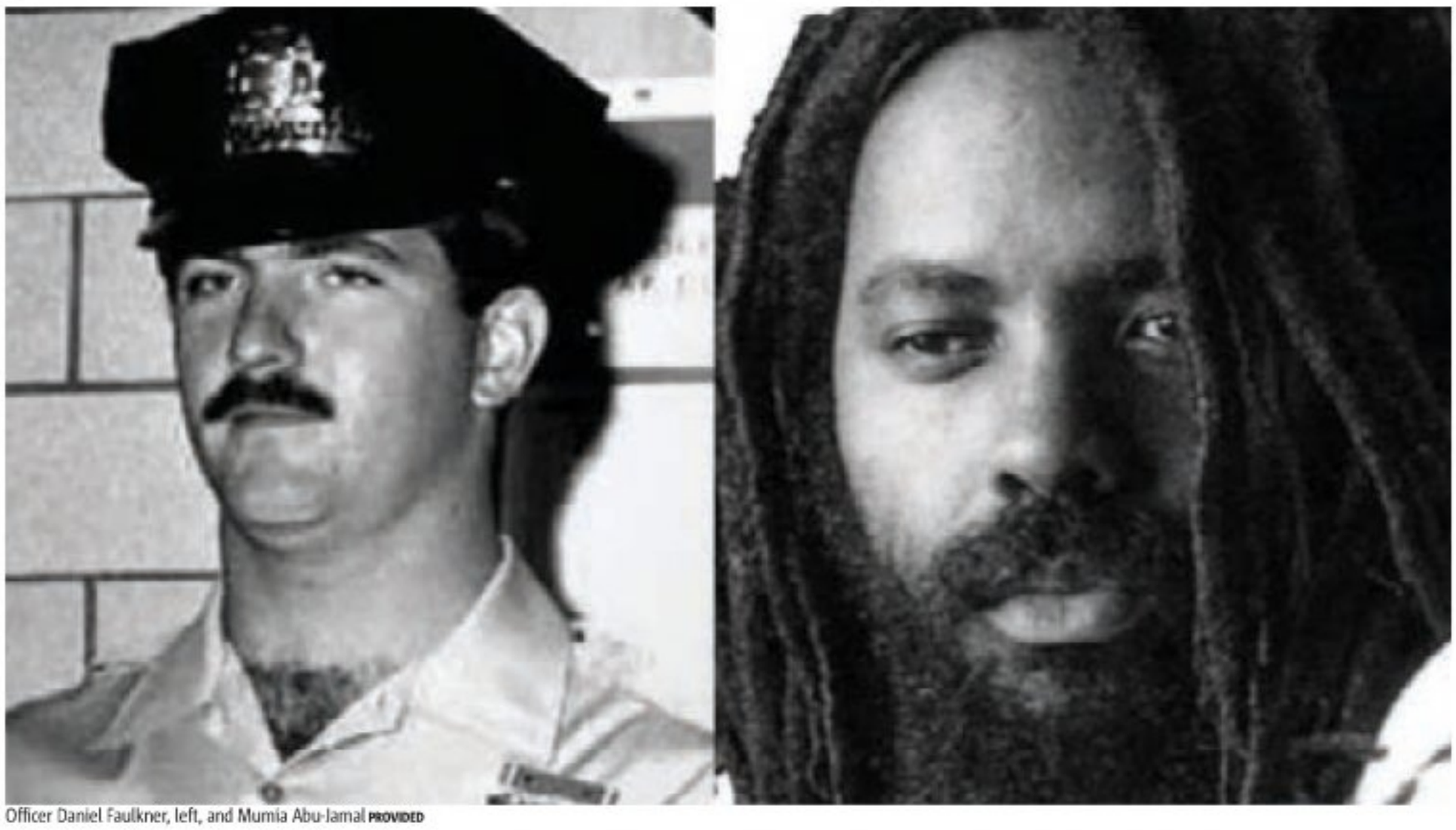

Officer Daniel Faulkner, left, and Mumia Abu-Jamal PROVIDED

A federal judge has ordered that the state provide former death-row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal with a hepatitis C medication pending a doctor's examination, following calls from protesters late last year.

Abu-Jamal must be examined by a doctor within two weeks to determine if there's any medical reason he should not receive the drugs, U.S. District Judge Robert Mariani ruled. If none is found, the state is compelled to provide the prisoner with DAAs, a direct-acting antiviral medication, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

Abu-Jamal is serving a life sentence at a state prison in Mahanoy for the 1981 murder of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner. Protests ignited last year urging the state to provide Abu-Jamal with an anti-viral medication, but the Department of Corrections has argued in the past that he hasn't met required criteria to receive treatment.

About 7,000 Pennsylvania inmates have been diagnosed with hepatitis C. Treating them would cost $600 million, the Inky reported.

In 2015, Abu-Jamal was diagnosed with the viral infection after diabetic shock sent him to the prison infirmary. His supporters said jailers knew about the disease since 2012, but failed to treat the disease, Metro previously reported.

Previously on death row, Abu-Jamal's death sentence was commuted to life in prison in 2014.

Thirty-five years ago, the activist-turned-journalist was arrested for fatally shooting Faulkner. Appeals at the state and federal level — based on racial bias, ineffective assistance of counsel and complaints that the judge confused the jury — were all denied.

Costly treatment

DAAs can range from $51,000 to $66,000 or more, according to a May 2016 report filed with the National Institutes of Health.

31 Philly professors sign letter denouncing Trump's attorney general pick

More than 30 law school faculty members from four area universities signed a letter opposing President-elect Donald Trump's nomination of Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions as attorney general.

Thirty-one professors from the law schools of Drexel University, Temple University, the University of Pennsylvania and Villanova University joined more than 1,200 faculty members from around the country in urging the Senate Committee on the Judiciary to reject Trump's nomination.

The signers include 11 professors from Drexel's Kline School of Law; 12 from Temple's Beasley School of Law; one from Villanova; and seven from Penn.

President-elect Donald Trump introduces Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions during his rally at Mobile, Alabama's Ladd-Peebles Stadium in 2015. GETTY IMAGES

The letter states: "As law faculty who work every day to better understand the law and teach it to our students, we are convinced that Jeff Sessions will not fairly enforce our nation's laws and promote justice and equality in the United States."

In front of a 1986 Senate Judiciary Committee, J. Gerald Hebert testified on some "deeply concerning" remarks Sessions had made.

Hebert, who was working on voting rights cases for the Department of Justice, split his time between Washington, D.C., and Alabama, where Sessions was a U.S. attorney. He recalled in that Senate meeting that Sessions thought things were OK for minorities in the 1980s, and that civil rights organizations were asking for too much, the Huffington Post reported last year.

Sessions served as Alabama attorney general for two years after leaving his position as U.S. attorney, and was elected as a U.S. senator in 1997, a post he has held since.

On Brietbart News' radio show in December 2015, Sessions also said to Stephen Bannon — then chairman of the news organization and now Trump's top adviser — that he would consider supporting Trump's campaign proposal to ban Muslim immigration.

Ten days after being elected president, Trump announced Sessions' likely nomination as attorney general.

Less than a month later, a GoFundMe campaign — also organized by law professors around the nation — was launched to raise funds for newspaper ads to run in the hometown newspapers of senators who are undecided about Sessions' nomination.

The campaign has raised more than $14,500 of its $16,000 goal. ALEXIS SACHDEV

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BRIEF

46 hurt after two trolleys collide in West Philly

Forty-six people were injured when two SEPTA trolleys collided in West Philadelphia on Wednesday afternoon, authorities said.

According to officials, the Route 10 trolleys were traveling in the same direction when one rear-ended the other at North 38th Street and Lancaster Avenue at 1:30 p.m.

"Fortunately, at this time we are told that these are non-life-threatening injuries," SEPTA spokesman Andrew Busch said. Some of the injured were taken to local hospitals. The trolley operators were among those hurt.

The trolleys were believed to have been traveling at low speeds. One of the trolleys had visible denting to its rear, and its bumper appeared to have fallen off.

The cause of the collision is being investigated.

SAM NEWHOUSE

Police officers and SEPTA staff at the scene of the trolley collision in West Philadelphia. SAM NEWHOUSE

The screenshot shows the officer, who has not been identified, struggle with a teenage girl. PROVIDED

Cop union trashes DA for not charging teen in fight video

The officer involved in the confrontation has been assigned to desk duty.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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The president of the Philadelphia Police Department's union trashed District Attorney Seth William Wednesday for not charging a teen girl caught on video fighting with a police officer.

"Once again, the district attorney of Philadelphia has chosen to disregard his responsibility and look the other way when a police officer is assaulted," fumed union president John McNesby in a statement released Wednesday.

"The young woman who freely admitted assaulting a uniformed officer on duty is allowed to walk away with absolutely no accountability by a district attorney too busy dodging federal subpoenas to do the job he was sworn to do," McNesby continued, apparently referring to the reported federal probe into Williams' fundraising and finances.

Williams decided Tuesday to not file assault on police charges against a 16-year-old girl, who was caught on video struggling with a police officer after a 30-person brawl in West Philly on Monday.

The girl admitted to striking the officer in the face and knocking her glasses off and was arrested and charged with assault by the police.

But the officer's response, throwing the girl to the ground by the hair, straddling her and punching her repeatedly, drew immediate and intense criticism from Black Lives Matters activists.

Williams' spokesman Cameron Kline defended the decision to not charge the girl with assaulting a police officer.

"District Attorney Williams will never apologize for relying on high investigative and prosecutorial standards before deciding to take away someone's freedom," Kline said via email. "And it's stunning that anyone, much less a member of law enforcement, would ever believe anything else."

Kline also took issue with McNesby's implication that Williams ignores cases involving police officers.

"Mr. McNesby's comments seem to miss the fact that the District Attorney has prosecuted more police officers than his past two predecessors combined," Kline said. "The district attorney believes that everyone should be treated the same and held to the same standards regardless of if they are a police officer or not."

The police officer involved in the incident is currently assigned to desk duty while Internal Affairs investigates her use of force in this incident.

For the expanded version, visit metro.us

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Amazon, Forever 21 vying for bankrupt American Apparel

The bankruptcy auction of LA based American Apparel, which made its branding theme "Made in the U.S.A", will determine the future of a major clothing manufacturing plant in California, one of the most expensive states in terms of labor costs.

Online retailer Amazon.com Inc. and teen apparel store chain Forever 21 Inc. are among the companies weighing offers to acquire bankrupt American Apparel LLC, people familiar with the talks said on Wednesday.

Keeping jobs in the United States has become a hot button political issue since the presidential election. Ford Motor Co. on Tuesday reversed plans for a $1.6 billion factory in Mexico and said it would add 700 jobs in Michigan after receiving criticism from President-elect Donald Trump.

Amazon and Forever 21, as well as California-based apparel maker Next Level Apparel and brand licensor Authentic Brands Group LLC, are in talks with American Apparel and its financial advisers about submitting offers ahead of a deadline on Friday, the people said.

Any successful offer would have to top a $66 million stalking horse bid by Canadian apparel maker Gildan Activewear Inc, which American Apparel agreed to when it filed for bankruptcy in November.

Gildan's offer included an option to keep American Apparel's manufacturing plants in southern California, which employ about 3,500 workers, making American Apparel one of the biggest garment makers in the United States.

But Gildan plans to preserve only some of the California production should its bid prevail, the sources said. Many of Gildan's production facilities are in low-cost countries.

An outcome in the auction is expected next week, the sources said, asking not to be identified because the deliberations are confidential.

A Gildan spokesman said in an email on Wednesday that it is putting together all the necessary information from its due diligence to best position itself in the auction. REUTERS

American Apparel GETTY IMAGES

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BRIEF

US chief justice steps aside in patent case over stock conflict

U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts will no longer participate in a patent dispute at the Supreme Court involving a unit of Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc after he realized he owns about $175,000 of stock in the company, the court said on Wednesday.

The eight-justice court is weighing whether genetic-testing kits made by Thermo Fisher-owned Life Technologies Corp. infringed upon patents held by Promega Corp.

Chief Justice John Roberts
GETTY IMAGES

In a letter issued on Wednesday, Scott Harris, the clerk of the court, said Roberts belatedly learned that Life Technologies was owned by Thermo Fisher. The letter noted that "the ordinary conflict check conducted in the chief justice's chamber's inadvertently failed to find this potential conflict."

Roberts will therefore step aside, meaning only seven of the court's eight justices will decide the case, which was argued on Dec. 6.

Roberts' 1,212 shares are worth around $175,000 based on the current share price of around $145.

Supreme Court justices routinely recuse themselves in cases involving companies in which they own stocks.
REUTERS

The Trump administration is expected to add more so-called inflation hawks to the Fed's ranks, which could offset a dovish tilt this year on the policy-setting committee and rattle a fragile consensus to go slow on rate hikes. GETTY IMAGES

Fed policymakers agree Trump fiscal boost poses inflation risk

Trump will take office on Jan. 20 and has yet to outline in detail his economic policy plans.

Almost all Federal Reserve policymakers thought the economy could grow more quickly because of fiscal stimulus under the Trump administration and many were eyeing faster interest rate increases, minutes from the central bank's December meeting showed.

The minutes, released on Wednesday, showed how broadly views within the Fed are shifting in response to President-elect Donald Trump's promises of tax cuts, infrastructure spending and deregulation.

Policymakers were clear that the outlook for those policies remained uncertain, but they could, if implemented, stoke higher inflation which would lead the central bank to raise borrowing costs more aggressively.

"About half of the participants incorporated an assumption of more expansionary fiscal policy in their forecasts," according to the minutes from the Dec. 13-14 meeting, referring to the 17 policymakers who participated.

"Almost all also indicated that the upside risks to their forecasts for economic growth had increased," the minutes stated.

The central bank's policy-setting committee unanimously raised interest rates last month by a quarter of a point and policymakers signaled a faster pace of rate increases in 2017 than previously expected. That was seen as the Fed's first reaction to Trump's victory in the Nov. 8 election.

But the minutes showed policymakers might signal an even more aggressive path of rate increases if inflationary pressures rose. Trump campaigned on promises to double America's pace of economic growth and "rebuild" the country's infrastructure.

"This is a slightly hawkish set of minutes," said Paul Ashworth, an economist at Capital Economics in Toronto.

Fed policymaker projections released last month pointed to a labor market heating up to just a little stronger than its longer-run normal level.

The minutes, however, showed "many participants judged that the risk of a sizable undershooting of the longer-run normal unemployment rate had increased somewhat and that the committee might need to raise the federal funds rate more quickly."

At the same time, Fed policymakers "emphasized their considerable uncertainty" about future economic policy changes.
REUTERS

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Republicans make repealing Obamacare 'first order of business'

President Barack Obama leaves after meeting with Democratic members of the House and Senate. GETTY IMAGES

The Senate brushed aside Democrat opposition and voted to open debate on a resolution setting in motion the Republican drive to repeal the 2010 Affordable Care Act.

President Barack Obama exhorted fellow Democrats to preserve his legacy-defining health-care law as Republicans moved ahead with their long-desired bid to scrap it in what Vice President-elect Mike Pence called the "first order of business" of Donald Trump's administration.

Obama made a rare trip to Capitol Hill to urge Democratic lawmakers to protect the measure, which is known as Obamacare and is considered his signature domestic policy accomplishment.

Republicans, who will control both chambers of Congress and the White House when Trump takes office, stepped up their rhetorical attack on the law, which they have labeled a government overreach. Democrats in turn accused them of trying to rip apart the nation's health-care system with no firm plan to replace it.

"The Republican plan to cut health-care wouldn't 'make America great again,'" Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer told reporters, invoking Trump's campaign slogan. "It would make America sick again and lead to chaos instead of affordable care."

Since the law was enacted, Republicans in Congress have voted more than 50 times to try to repeal all or part of it and conservatives have filed suits to try to invalidate it.

Republicans, who have fought nearly all of Obama's major legislative initiatives during his eight years in office, have said Obamacare has brought excessive government intrusion into the healthcare market and contend it is harming job growth by adding burdens on businesses.

Obama "encouraged us to fight," Democratic Rep. Elijah Cummings told reporters after meeting with the president. Obama told reporters his message was, "Look out for the American people."

Pence, a former member of the House of Representatives, met Republican lawmakers to plot the path forward on scuttling the law. Afterward, they stepped up their rhetorical attack on Obamacare, with House Speaker Paul Ryan saying the law ruined the American health-care system.

"The first order of business is to keep our promise to repeal Obamacare and replace it with the kind of health-care reform that will lower the cost of health insurance without growing the size of government," Pence said at a news conference.

Pence said Trump will work in concert with congressional leaders for a "smooth transition to a market-based health-care reform system" through legislative and executive action. REUTERS

"The Republican plan to cut health care wouldn't 'make America great again' ... It would make America sick again and lead to chaos instead of affordable care." Schumer

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Mass. triple murderer's lawyer asks jury to spare him

Jurors should spare the life of a Massachusetts drifter who killed three men in separate 2001 attacks because a series of brain injuries suffered as young as age 5 hurt his ability to control his emotions or impulses, his attorney said on Wednesday.

Prosecutors challenged that claim, citing the detailed planning that Gary Lee Sampson went through before and during his killing spree, including buying rope to more securely tie his victims and switching from stabbing them to strangling them when he tired of getting victims' blood on himself.

Sampson, 57, could be the second person sentenced to death by a federal jury in Massachusetts in two years, a rarity in a state whose laws do not allow the death penalty.

He pleaded guilty to killing two men in Massachusetts after hailing them as a hitchhiker and taking them to secluded wooded areas where he tied them up before stabbing them to death. He later strangled a third man in New Hampshire.

Michael Rizzo, father of victim Jonathan Rizzo GETTY IMAGES

Sampson suffered a series of injuries, including from a fall of 10 feet when he was about 5 years old, that injured his brain and prevents him from fully controlling his actions or emotions, defense attorney Michael Burt said.

"It's helpful to look at those injuries and ask not whether it excuses, not whether it justifies, his crimes but does it help explain how he had been doing all these horrific crimes and running amok?" said Burt, as he presented the jury with some 115 mitigating factors that he said justify sparing Sampson's life.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Zachary Hafer dismissed the significance of the injuries.

"This is a convenient brain injury, this is a strategic brain injury, this is an imaginary brain injury," Hafer said.

He showed the jury the pocketknife Sampson used in the killings, as well as photos of his victims before and after their slayings.

Sampson was sentenced to death in 2004, but a judge in 2011 overturned that sentence after learning that one of the jurors had lied about having been a victim of domestic violence.

Sampson's victims were Philip McCloskey, 69, Jonathan Rizzo, 19, and Robert Whitney, 58.

REUTERS

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CBS signs deal to join live-streaming platform Hulu

CBS Corp. has signed a deal to have its broadcast network and some cable programming on Hulu's live streaming service, which is expected to go live this year, the companies said Wednesday.

Under the deal, the New York-based broadcaster's sports programming, including its NFL games and the NCAA Division 1 Basketball Championship, as well as CBS Sports Network and Pop, an entertainment channel, will be on Hulu. Hulu subscribers will also be able to subscribe to CBS Corp.'s Showtime for an additional price.

CBS, whose shows include news magazine "60 Minutes" and the comedy "The Big Bang Theory," will bring in more than $3 per monthly subscriber for its channels, with increases that could eventually get to more than $4, according to a source familiar with the situation. The source requested anonymity because the deal is not yet public.

The Wall Street Journal first reported news of the agreement.

For Hulu, the addition of CBS's shows is a potential edge since its competitor AT&T DirecTV has not inked a deal with CBS for its own live streaming platform, DirecTV Now, which went live late last year.

In December, CBS Chief Executive Leslie Moonves said he expected to reach a deal with AT&T DirecTV to be on the platform.

Hulu is owned by CBS's competitors, Walt Disney Corp., 21st Century Fox, Comcast Corp. and Time Warner Inc.

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REUTERS

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Kim Kardashian returns to social media

Rumors of Kimye's demise have been greatly exaggerated.

Kim Kardashian hasn't posted on Twitter or Instagram since she was robbed at gunpoint in Paris in October. But the rumor mill has been churning since she yanked the "West" from her social media handles this past week.

But fret not — it seems all is well with couple. Kim posted an adorable photo of herself and babydaddy Kanye with kids North and Saint West. She captioned the photo, "Family."

The tweet comes on the heels of Kim's sweet family video that she uploaded to her YouTube channel and app Monday. The rare, untitled, low-frills home movie shows the couple and the kids hanging out at home and generally being cute.

Kanye and Kim had as tough a year in 2016 as anyone, so maybe some family time can help them stay grounded. Or at least help Kim stay grounded — you know, for now.

Of course George Michael inspired 'Carpool Karaoke'

Did you know that one of George Michael's biggest fans is James Corden?

"The Late Late Show" host discussed the "Freedom! '90" singer's December death, saying, "I feel like I've loved George Michael as long as I've loved music."

Corden revealed that not only did a charity sketch he did with George Michael in 2011 inspire his superpopular "Carpool Karaoke" series, it's what persuaded mega diva Mariah Carey to do the show.

He says, "Her words were, 'If it's good enough for George, then it's good enough for me. I'll do it.' So we all have so much to thank him for, for the music that he's given that will last forever, but we personally, here at this show, we owe him so much." Beautifully said, James.

Ryan Reynolds opens up about anxiety

Ryan Reynolds might be the calm, cool, witty star behind "Deadpool," but in an interview with Vanity Fair, the actor says he relied on his wife, Blake Lively, to cope with his anxiety throughout the film.

"The expectations were eating me alive … Blake helped me through that," he told the magazine. "I'm lucky to have her around just to keep me sane." The details of how exactly the mama of two kept her husband sane are unavailable, notes the publication, but it still sounds pretty solid to us.

Guess it's true — behind every great man is a great(er) woman.

What to look forward to in 2017

Please, please, please let "Wonder Woman" (out June 2, starring Gal Gadot) be good. CLAY ENOS, DC COMICS

Geek Girl in Hollywood

JENNA BUSCH
legionofleia.com

We've finally rid ourselves of the year from hell. But what's on the horizon? I'm not even going to begin to speculate on the politics. You can just check your Facebook feed if you feel the need for that. Actually, maybe don't do that. Here's what I'm looking forward to on the entertainment side this year:

We're not getting another season of "Westworld" until next year, but this year we have the sixth season of "Game of Thrones." I'm also looking forward to the second season of "Stranger Things." I don't know about you, but '80s nostalgia is rather comforting these days.

We're getting a lot of amazing sci-fi/fantasy/comic book movies this year as well, and "Wonder Woman" is at the top of my list. I'm thrilled to finally be able to see not only a female-fronted superhero film, but to get to see Wonder Woman in her own film for the very first time in live action. If this is good — oh, please let it be good — I think we're going to start having discussions about more of these. It's about time.

Finally, I'm excited for "Star Wars: Episode VIII" — and sad. I was heartbroken when Carrie Fisher died, as I'm sure many of you were — not just because she played a character that changed the lives of girls everywhere, but because she was amazing in her own right. I have no idea what's going to happen next, now that she's gone, but one more chance to watch Carrie Fisher portray Leia Organa means the world to me.

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Meet Lewis MacDougall, star of 'A Monster Calls'

The young actor gushes about starring in the rare children's film that doesn't sugar-coat things.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

Lewis MacDougall plays a young Irish boy trying to deal with the slow death of his mother (Felicity Jones) in the dark fantasy film "A Monster Calls," now in theaters. FOCUS FEATURES

"A Monster Calls" is not your typical children's film. And Lewis MacDougall doesn't play your typical children's film hero.

The Scottish actor, 14, plays Conor, a boy in remote Ireland whose mother (Felicity Jones) is wasting away from cancer. He finds himself visited at night by a giant tree monster (voiced by Liam Neeson), who seems menacing yet only wants to tell him stories — fairy tales, but not ones that promise happy endings. They instead offer lessons about how life is difficult, people are complicated and death is a fact of life. This isn't what kids usually hear, especially in movies.

GETTY IMAGES

"Quite a lot of films really underestimate how much a child can understand," MacDougall tells us. "It's important to be honest with kids. After all, they're going to be adults one day. They really need to learn about the troubles that life has, that life can be complicated."

Even with this unusual form of therapy, Conor spends the majority of "A Monster Calls" at his wit's end. He's a bundle of nerves, prone to acting out. He might be the angriest child ever portrayed in a children's movie.

"It's something Conor is struggling to do: be honest with himself. The people around him aren't being honest with him about his mother's condition, about what's going to happen to her," he says. "This story can really help people. A lot of people, sadly, experiences loss or grief in their lives."

"A Monster Calls" is, as you can see, a really heavy film, and MacDougall had a tough job to do, as any actor of any age would.

"When I was told I got the part, obviously I was excited. But I was a bit nervous as well," he explains. "It's a big role to take for someone of my age. And it was only my second film." (The other one was a supporting turn in last year's "Pan.")

The young actor finds "A Monster Calls" to be one of the rare films about kids that really gets them. He cites "Stand By Me" as another. "It doesn't sugarcoat things," he says. "It shows the tough parts, and it shows them goofing off."

What's next?

MacDougall is due for a change of pace later this year in "Boundaries," a roadtrip drama with Vera Farmiga, Christopher Plummer, Bobby Cannavale and Kristen Schaal.

"It's important for me to do different types of roles, to keep things fresh," MacDougall explains. "All the films I've done have all had different types of characters."

He says there was never a moment when he realized he wanted to be a professional actor. He almost didn't go to the open casting call that got him his stint in "Pan"; he belongs to a drama group whose director encouraged him to try out. Despite the big films, the actor says his life hasn't changed much.

"My friends and teachers treat me the same way," MacDougall says. "Just like how Conor wants to be treated normally [in "A Monster Calls"], I want to be treated normally."

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things to do

The women of 'John'

Carla Belver plays Genevieve in "John," a play by Annie Baker premiering Jan. 12 at the Arden Theatre. PROVIDED

The Arden Theatre's next big dramedy has a feminine touch.

A.D. AMOROSI
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

The plays of Annie Baker are as natural as they are odd. Aside from being improbably lengthy, they linger on the everyday conversational complications of human speech. From their long pauses and endless stammers to their jumbled rushed phrases, Baker is like David Mamet without the forced machismo. Into this breach comes Philadelphia veteran thespian Carla Belver who plays the Gettysburg-area native Genevieve in Baker's play "John," which is opening at the Arden Theatre on Jan. 12. We chatted with Belver before heading into the first day of rehearsals.

You were honored with the Barrymore's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014. Didn't you just want to shout out, "Hey I'm still working here!" to make sure people knew you weren't out of the game?
Yes, but, every show I do, I think that it might be the last one. Luckily, people know that I work — pretty steadily too, like two shows a year since my start. You never know what's going to come along next for an actor — especially my age — unless somebody starts writing a whole lot of plays for old people. I'll work as long as I can remember my lines and follow the director.

That's an interesting point, because along with wanting to work, you want meaty, chewy roles. The Arden seems to have given you some of your more interesting opportunities with shows by Arthur Miller and Tracey Letts — cerebral stuff.
I've been fortunate that Artistic Director Terry Nolen has so much faith in me and presents me with so many adventurous opportunities. People's Light has treated me well, too. Then there's the Philadelphia Theater Company where I haven't worked for years even though I started it.

What was the theater scene in Philly like when you started that company and how much does it differ from the present?
Night and day — there's no resemblance. Back then, there was maybe two other companies. PTC was just a bunch of theater people from Villanova University who put on shows and never got paid. Now everyone gets paid. That's an important difference.

Annie Baker is part of the modern arc of female playwrights. Are you heartened by the fact that there are more women playwrights and directors out there, presently?
Oh sure, and Baker has a distinctive voice and is such a fascinating woman. I'm reading her other plays now. We have to have more women. They explore the female psyche in ways that men simply aren't interested in or equipped to do.

If you go

"John"
Jan. 12-Feb 26
Arden Theatre
40 N. Second St.
$36-$50
ardentheatre.org

The first full day of rehearsals for "John" at the Arden Theatre. PROVIDED

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HOT PLATE

Diver Scallops at Harp & Crown

Jennifer Logue eats her way through Philly.
jennifer.logue@metro.us

Harp & Crown is a feast for the eyes as well as your taste buds. The romantic-meets-rustic space on Sansom Street opened in mid-October, and makes for the ultimate date spot, with its cozy plush seating and mood lighting.

Being chronically single, however, I invited one of my favorite gal pals for a light dinner after work. Spending most of the day sitting behind a desk, I wanted something wholesome but nothing too heavy. That's when I settled on the Diver Scallops.

The dish was beautifully presented with three impeccably seared scallops, cooked spinach and dollops of parsnip puree.

Topped with a green chermoula sauce (a mixture of herbs, lemon and olive oil) and red onion, the scallops were juicy with just the right amount of zest to take them from bland to bam. The cooked spinach stood its ground in a supporting role — not overpowering the scallops but essential to balancing the dish. Finally, the parsnip puree was a welcome change from your typical mashed potato: creamy, yet light.

Chef Karen Nicolas later revealed that the parsnips are cooked in milk with a tiny bit of apple — a secret straight from the kitchen.

I won't attempt recreating it at home, but I'll definitely return here for a second helping.

Harp & Crown is located at 1525 Sansom St.

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4 Ways to step outside the box

Been there, done that? Yeah, right.

JENNIFER LOGUE
@jenniferlogue
jennifer.logue@metro.us

Easing back into the daily grind can quickly put a damper on lofty 2017 resolutions, but there's a surefire way to keep your inner fire burning bright — learning new things. From DJing to running off and joining the circus (at least for the day), Philly is chock full of experiences for the perpetually curious. How will you expand your horizons this year?

PROVIDED

Trapeze Fundamentals

Every Saturday
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Philadelphia School of Circus Arts
$24 per class
phillycircus.com
Looking to build core strength without being bored to tears at the gym? It's about time you've joined the circus — The Philadelphia School of Circus Arts, that is. For beginners, the Trapeze Fundamentals class is a great place to start — it gets you acclimated to being upside down and using muscles you didn't even know you had!

Mastering the Headstand

Saturday, Jan. 21
1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Priya Hot Yoga
$25-$30
priyahotyoga.com
Sure, some of your friends may have six-pack abs, but can they stand on their head? Probably not. In Mastering the Headstand, instructor Julia Paddison will present headstand techniques in various stages, building a strong and safe foundation for the pose.

ISTOCK

DJ 101

Six-week course
Various times
Scratch DJ Academy
$499 for the course
scratch.com
So you think you could be the next Calvin Harris? Well, you've gotta crawl before you can walk, and learning to DJ is like learning a musical instrument — it takes practice, passion and dedication. Scratch Academy in Philly offers a range of classes but DJ 101 is perfect for beginners, teaching basic scratching and timing, music theory and more.

JENNIFER LOGUE

PROVIDED

Improv 101

8-week course, Various times, Philly Improv Theater. $249 for the course. phitcomedy.com
Pretty good at thinking on your feet? Pretty awful? Throw yourself into the deep end with Improv 101 at Philly Improv Theater. This two-hour class meets weekly and teaches basic concepts like building a scene, creating characters and more. It even wraps up with a special graduation performance so you can put all your skills to the test.

EAT LIKE AN INSIDER

The chicken pie at The Standard Tap comes recommended by Simon Powles (inset). ALL IMAGES PROVIDED

Simon Powles of Starr Catering Group

Chicken pie on a wintry day sure sounds like a plan.

JENNIFER LOGUE
@jenniferlogue
jennifer.logue@metro.us

Simon Powles may not be a chef, but as the founder and CEO of Starr Catering Group, he's downright passionate about food and excellence in hospitality. Originally from the U.K., Powles has lived in the Philadelphia area for nine years and recently moved to Center City. When he's not working, he enjoys going to the movies, spending time with his family and, of course, sampling the best bites this city has to offer. He dishes on where to get duck meatballs, sweet-pea ravioli and chicken pie.

Best late night meal?
David's Mai Lai Wah Chinese *(1001 Race St.)*, because late night is late and dumplings are great anytime, especially the pan-fried dumplings here.

Best meal under $10?
Top of the Hill in Chestnut Hill *(186 E Evergreen Ave.)* is a great neighborhood place by some of our favorite clients' homes. Try the tuna, cheddar and apple sandwich on rye. It's the best tuna salad in Philadelphia.

Best hidden foodie gem?
The Standard Tap *(901 N. 2nd St.)* is not really a hidden restaurant, but I think that their chicken pie is a bit of a hidden secret. It is a dish that reminds me of home and is so comforting.

Best place to dine alone?
The bar at Vernick *(2031 Walnut St.)*. The atmosphere is always lively and warm. It's the perfect space to feel both invisible and well taken care of. The sweet pea ravioli and the grilled black sea bass are favorites.

Place you always take or recommend for out-of-towners?
Also Vernick. A great location for any occasion!

Go-to date spot?
High Street on Market *(308 Market St.)*. Intimate, boisterous and really great food! My favorite dish is the duck meatballs.

Best place to catch up with friends?
El Rey *(2013 Chestnut St.)*.

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YOUR WEEKEND STARTS NOW

THREE KINGS DAY

Three Kings Day

Jan. 6, 5:30 p.m.
Kimmel Center
300 S. Broad St.
Free
kimmelcenter.org/pdp-pages/201617/free/three-kings-day/
If you aren't quite ready to let the holidays slip out of your grasp, you're in luck. On Saturday, the Mexican Consulate and Mexican Cultural Center gather at the Kimmel Center lobby for Three Kings Day, one of the most revered holidays in Mexico. The day of festivities include a Three Wise Men re-enactment, the bashing of piñatas and the chance to nosh on a traditional slice of "Rosca de Reyes" bread.

Salsa Caliente!

Jan. 7, 8 p.m.
Painted Bride Art Center
230 Vine St.
$20-$25
Painted Bride welcomes a live Latin big band to help them celebrate their own version of Three Kings Day as well as Puerto Rico Christmas. To do it right, start your evening with salsa lessons at 8 p.m. Then show off your new moves when the party begins at 9 p.m.

LGBTQ

George Michael Karaoke

Jan. 5, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
W/N W/N
931 Spring Garden St.
Free
winwincoffeebar.com
To mark the recent passing of George Michael, Sing Your LIfe Karaoke hosts a night of singing that asks attendees to belt out songs from the openly gay British pop icon's catalogue of hits plus any other ditties performed by LGBTQ artists. Get there early to get first dibs on crowd-pleasers like "Faith" and "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go."

SHOPPING

Phila Flea Market

Jan. 7, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
820 Spring Garden St.
Pay as you go
philafleamarkets.org
Phila Flea Markets moves its treasure trove of goods indoors for its winter 2017 schedule, taking place every first and third Saturday of the month now through March. If you can dream it, you can buy it at this market. More than 85 vendors sell everything from antique furniture and vintage jewelry to linens, glassware and clothing. There's food on location, too, to keep you satiated while you shop.

COMEDY

"SportsMouth"

Nov. 3, 8:30 p.m.
Good Good Comedy
215 N. 11th St.
$5
goodgoodcomedy.com
Local comedian Shannon DeVido describes her monthly comedy show at Good Good Comedy as a marriage of "The Daily Show" and ESPN. She hosts a rotating lineup of local comedians who offer humorous takes on the month's sports stories through sit down interviews and "weird sketches."

SOUND GODS

All Mozart

Jan. 5-7
Verizon Hall
300 S. Broad St.
$36 and up
philorch.org
The Philadelphia Orchestra presents a rousing retrospective of Mozart's greatest hits—from a piece he composed when he was a wee lad of 8 to his last composition, the majestic "Jupiter." The concert runs from Jan. 5-7 and is curated by the fabulous Jane Glover.

LGBTQ

PROVIDED

Pigs in a Blanket

Jan. 7, 10:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., Tabu Lounge and Sports Bar, 200 S. 12th St., Free, tabuphilly.com
Spend your first weekend of the new year with two of Philly's best live-singing — and irreverent — drag queens, Pissi Myles and Sherrie Pie. The cabaret-style performance promises dirty, silly humor, raunchy jokes and "mad-cap surprises." If you're lucky, you may get pulled on stage for a new year's spanking.

Philly Loves Bowie

Jan. 6-17
Various locations and prices
phillylovesbowie.com
The passing of David Bowie was arguably one of the most significant demises in a 2016 full of significant demises. To mark the near year anniversary of his death, Philly Loves Bowie kicks off a nine-day festival celebrating all things Starman. Check out their schedule at phillylovesbowie.com to find an event that's right for you, whether it's a Bowie art show, Bowie karaoke, or a Bowie-inspired beer tasting.

Andrea Hornick

Jan. 6, 6-9 p.m.
The Barnes Foundation
2025 Franklin Parkway
$25
barnesfoundation.org
The Barnes Foundation is taking advantage of the inaugural First Friday of the year to kick-off its newest — and first of its kind there — sound installation by Andrea Hornick. The project, entitled "Unbounded Histories," comprises a string of poems relating to pieces in The Barnes collection and can be seen on your smartphone. This kickoff party features a performance by Hornick and, if you show up at 6 p.m., a half-hour tango lesson.
JOSH MIDDLETON

CLOSING SOON

PROVIDED

Last Call Art Crawl

Jan. 8-9
Various locations and prices
This weekend sees the closing of four terrific art and nature exhibitions in Philadelphia. On Jan. 8, the lights go down on the dazzling Longwood Garden Christmas display; the vibrant display "Last Call: I Found God in Myself" closes at the African American Museum and the Philadelphia Museum of Art takes down "Paint The Revolution: Mexican Modernism." The excellent photographic exhibition "Live and Life Will Give You Pictures" closes Jan. 9 at The Barnes Foundation. Get in line to see some of these master collections before they peace out for good.

Where to go in 2017

It's a great big world, and we've got your guide to making the most of it this year.

Fodor's Travel

Antigua & Barbuda

With a recent airport overhaul, strategic location, many beautiful beaches (one for every day of the year, the ads boast) and new UNESCO World Heritage Site — the exquisite walled Georgian-style Naval Dockyard — Antigua has positioned itself as a fantastic base for Caribbean exploration.

Cape Town

A renewed appreciation of Cape Town's diverse cultures and traditions is fueling a cultural renaissance, reflected in its cuisine and arts — including the opening of the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa in September 2017, destined to be Africa's largest contemporary art museum.

Bordeaux, France

In the last 15 years, the city has poured millions of euros into getting its luster back, giving its Neoclassical facades a serious spruce-up, creating large pedestrian-only swaths of street crisscrossing the city, and investing in state-of-the-art transport. Most notable is the recently opened Cite du Vin, what many are calling the world's first wine theme park.

Yorkshire, England

Yorkshire, the largest of England's counties, is also one of its most romantic, offering windswept moors, charming market towns, historic stately homes and brooding ruins. At its heart is the beautifully preserved city of York, still retaining its medieval walls and streets and home to the towering cathedral of York Minster and the National Railway Museum. But much of Yorkshire's appeal lies in its great outdoors, from the rugged expanses of the North York Moors, to fishing villages like Robin Hood's Bay.

Minho Region

The Portuguese often cite the lesser-known Minho region as the most beautiful part of the country. Largely overlooked by visitors, Minho's lush green landscape is characterized by forest-covered hills, deep river valleys, unspoiled sandy beaches and pretty towns where life appears to have changed little over the centuries. It also takes in the unforgettable Parque Nacional Peneda-Geres — Portugal's only national park.

Denver, Colorado

Over the past few years, the city has undergone an impressive food renaissance seen in the multitude of food halls and breweries that have opened up, including Avanti Food & Beverage and The Source, which is undergoing an expansion that will include a New Belgium brewery in early 2017. It's also become the nation's capital for recreational weed.

Laos

In urban centers Vientiane and Luang Prabang, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Buddhist temples stand side by side with vestiges of French colonialism. The pace of life is slow, and cycling along quiet back streets is a lovely way to get around. In Vientiane, gilded third-century stupa Pha That Luang gleams in the sharp sunlight, as do the nearly 7,000 Buddha statues at Wat Sisaket Museum.

North Yorkshire is known for its rolling hills and traditional farmhouses that date from the 17th century. IN PICTURES LTD., CORBIS

For the full list of places to go, visit **metro.us**

Kiev, Ukraine

Kiev is a unique mix of ancient monasteries and monumental Communist-era buildings. Any itinerary must include 11th-century Eastern Orthodox Monastery of the Caves with its gilded domes and underground catacombs. Nearby, in contrast, visitors should check out the Motherland Monument, a Soviet war memorial of mammoth dimensions.

Marfa, Texas

This small town steeped in both history and contemporary art has been steadily gaining notoriety. Its downtown boasts a thriving gallery scene, and the city also makes an ideal base for exploring the Texas borderlands. About an hour's drive south, the Fort Leaton State Historic Site sits at the entrance to the vast Big Bend Ranch State Park, whose dramatic landscape easily rivals the more famous national park to the east, but has far fewer tourists.

Wellington

New Zealand's artistic side is often overlooked in favor of its dramatic landscapes and extreme sports. Plan to spend a few days in the capital city of Wellington, which is getting plenty of buzz right now. "Welly" is the epicenter of New Zealand's film industry, but the creative vibe permeates the entire city, from the concept store Good as Gold to single-origin bean coffee shops such as Memphis Belle.

See Wellington, New Zealand, from a cable car. DEAGOSTINI, GETTY IMAGES

Saxony, Germany

Conveniently set halfway between Berlin and Prague, Saxony has undergone a profound transformation in the quarter century since German reunification and has now returned to its rightful place as one of the country's most important cultural centers. Its capital, Dresden, is home to half a million people and splendid state museums like the Old Masters Picture Gallery, with collections dating from Saxony's medieval heyday as an electorate of the Holy Roman Empire. The Baroque Semperoper, one of the world's best opera houses, is another highlight.

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Embiid wants to be great, and that's great for the 76ers

The rookie star continues to make a huge impact on Philadelphia and the NBA.

ANDY JASNER
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In a dismal three-plus-year stretch of futility, the 76ers can take major solace in this fact: They found a franchise cornerstone.

The Process is now.

Joel Embiid has proven that much and even more through the first 33 games in the Sixers' 9-24 start. On Tuesday afternoon, Embiid was named the Eastern Conference Rookie of the Month. Later that night, the 7-foot-2 center carried the Sixers to a thrilling 93-91 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves at the Wells Fargo Center.

Embiid compiled 25 points, eight rebounds, three assists and two blocked shots. On the game-winning play, his screen freed Robert Covington for a basket with a two tenths of a second remaining. Through the night, Embiid pumped his fists, spurred the crowd on when necessary and reveled in the spotlight.

Despite missing two full seasons with a pair of surgeries, Embiid's feet and ankles have clearly responded. Playing with the poise and passion of a 10-year veteran, the Sixers have a star.

And possibly an All-Star. Considering Embiid's importance to the franchise and his minute restriction, why would an All-Star Game push be so important?

"Because I think he deserves it," Sixers coach Brett Brown said. "I think the health risk is becoming increasingly less, as I'm advised."

Embiid played his 23rd NBA game Tuesday night since he has been resting on back-to-backs and other assorted games to stay fresh all season.

Embiid has reached at least 25 points seven times this season, while the remainder of the rookie class has just one. He's the first rookie with at least seven 25-point games since Tyreke Evans accomplished the feat for the Kings in 2009-10.

Joel Embiid is becoming a bigger Philadelphia hero with every game he plays. GETTY IMAGES

Imagine if Embiid was playing 35-to-40 minutes per game. Imagine the statistics. Imagine how the Sixers will improve as pieces continue to fall in around the big man in the next year or two.

It's a pretty picture for sure.

Check out the crowd now and more and more Embiid jerseys are popping up. The fans are embracing this kid. Embiid is on his way to becoming a star.

"We are still learning," Embiid said after the win. "We are going to go back and watch this game. I thought this game shouldn't have been close. We have to do a better job of not letting the other team come back in the game, but it is a learning experience and the last two games we got wins."

Embiid isn't becoming cocky by any means. He wants to be great. He's displaying that attitude on the court and the future suddenly looks so promising.

Eagles' Roseman expresses regret for losing Jackson, others

It was sort of like "Back to the Future" for the Eagles in 2016, bringing back former assistant and backup quarterback Doug Pederson and returning to an Andy Reid-like scheme and strategy.

Eagles executive vice president of football Operation Howie Roseman doubled down on that comparison Wednesday when he addressed the media.

"It seems like a long time ago we were leading the National Football League in 20-plus

The 2017 offseason will be critical for Howie Roseman. GETTY IMAGES

plays, and I don't have a DeLorean time machine to go back in time and get some of those guys back," Roseman said when asked about the team's need to bolster its wide recievers. "We have a young group. We have a young room. They need to continue to grow, and it's one of the things, among others, that we need to look at."

In 2013 (and 2014), under then-first-year head coach Chip Kelly, the Eagles' offense took the NFL by storm, as career years from DeSean Jackson, Jeremy Maclin and LeSean McCoy propelled Philly to an NFC East crown and the second best offense in football.

But Kelly, who jockeyed player personnel control from Roseman, send that trio packing either via trade, free agency or simply cutting them.

Now back in command, Roseman is piecing the team back together. And the most important. Is impending free agent Jackson a viable target? Roseman's time machine remark insinuated perhaps he does long for the days of the Eagles as a vertical threat. But when asked, Roseman simply replied: "I cannot talk about any player who is under contract for another team."

Roseman continued, "Nobody is a free agent until February after the combine."

That gives the Eagles and Eagles vice president of player personnel Joe Douglas about two months to figure out a plan. Stay tuned.

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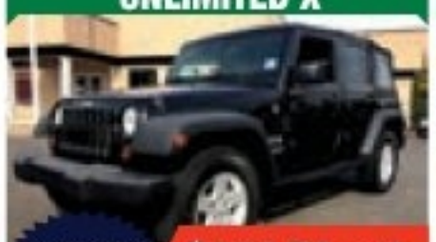
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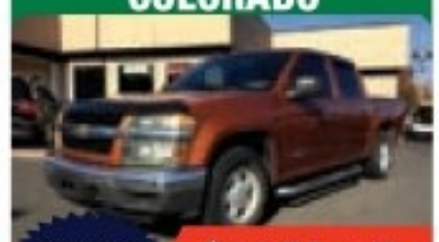
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3 Trades the Sixers should make

The Sixers have a lot of difficult decisions to make as the February trade deadline nears.

JEFF MCMENAMIN
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Will Jahlil Okafor, Nerlens Noel, both or neither still be with the Sixers when the season ends? GETTY IMAGES

The turn of the new year is a very busy time for NBA general managers. With a little under two months until the NBA trade deadline on Feb. 23, GMs across the league are constantly making calls to other teams' front offices in the hopes of making a deal to better their franchise.

In his first full season at the helm for the Sixers, Bryan Colangelo has a lot of fan expectations on his plate regarding this date. Everybody knows that the Sixers need to move at least one of the big men on their roster, which will be difficult to do when everybody in the league can see your hand.

For the past year, there have been rumblings of the Sixers wanting to trade either Nerlens Noel or Jahlil Okafor. Those rumblings have heavily affected their trade value. Nonetheless, here's three potential deals the Sixers could make next month as the deadline nears.

1 Jahlil Okafor to Timberwolves for Kris Dunn

Kris Dunn's rookie season is off to a tumultuous start in Minnesota. Through 35 games, Dunn is averaging a mere 4.1 points, 2.3 rebounds and 2.5 assists in his young career. Coming off of a Big East Player of the Year campaign last year with 16.4 points, 5.3 rebounds, 6.2 assists and 2.5 steals per game for Providence, many figured Dunn's size and stature at the point guard position would give him an easy transition into the NBA. It hasn't happened, but many feel like the combo guard can turn things around.

Jahlil Okafor has proven offensively that he can hang with the best in the NBA, now in his second season with the Sixers. His career averages of 15.1 points and 6.3 rebounds are still among the top of his draft class at the age of just 21. ESPN's Brian Windhorst reported in December that the Timberwolves were looking for a big man to add front court play to the roster and Okafor would fit the bill just fine.

2 Nerlens Noel to Celtics for Avery Bradley

Every general manager in the NBA wants a player like Avery Bradley. Bradley, now in his seventh season in the NBA, is off to the best start of his career. He's averaging 17.8 points, 6.9 rebounds and 2.4 assists while continuing to be one of the best wing defenders in the NBA.

The Celtics have been looking to add a defensive big man to their lineup, ever since they added Al Horford in the offseason. Nerlens Noel, raised in the Boston area, would fit in nicely alongside of Horford in the green and white. Noel has proven to be an effective defender, rebounder and shot blocker in his three-year tenure in Philadelphia. He finished in the top 10 in steals (10th) and blocks (eighth) in the 2014-15 season and has rated in the top 10 for his defensive box plus/minus score in the past two seasons as well.

Celtics broadcaster Mike Gorman told 98.5 The Sports Hub's "Toucher and Rich" that, "the strength of his game is what Boston could use right now, which is a rim protector and shot blocker. … I think chemistrywise, I know him a little bit and he seems like a really good kid. So I think he'd fit in the locker room well."

Bradley might be thought of too highly in Boston to be shipped to Philly, but if they're trying to land Noel they may need to pay the price.

3 Ersan Ilyasova to Grizzlies for Troy Daniels

Troy Daniels has been one of the biggest stories in the league so far in the 2016-17 season. Entering the league as an undrafted free agent in 2013, Daniels has played limited minutes on three different teams (Rockets, Timberwolves, Hornets) in the past three seasons before landing in Memphis this season. Daniels has played his way into the rotation, averaging 10.4 points in 20.2 minutes per game with the Grizzlies.

The Grizzlies, who are stacked at the guard spots, may want to make a deal for three-point specialist Ersan Ilyasova as they gear up for a playoff run this season. Ilyasova, acquired by the Sixers in November, has played very well for the Sixers of late, averaging 14.0 points and 6.4 rebounds in 27.2 minutes per game. He can really stretch the floor from the power forward spot, shooting 40 percent this season.

The Sixers would get rid of an expiring deal, while adding backcourt depth in the process.

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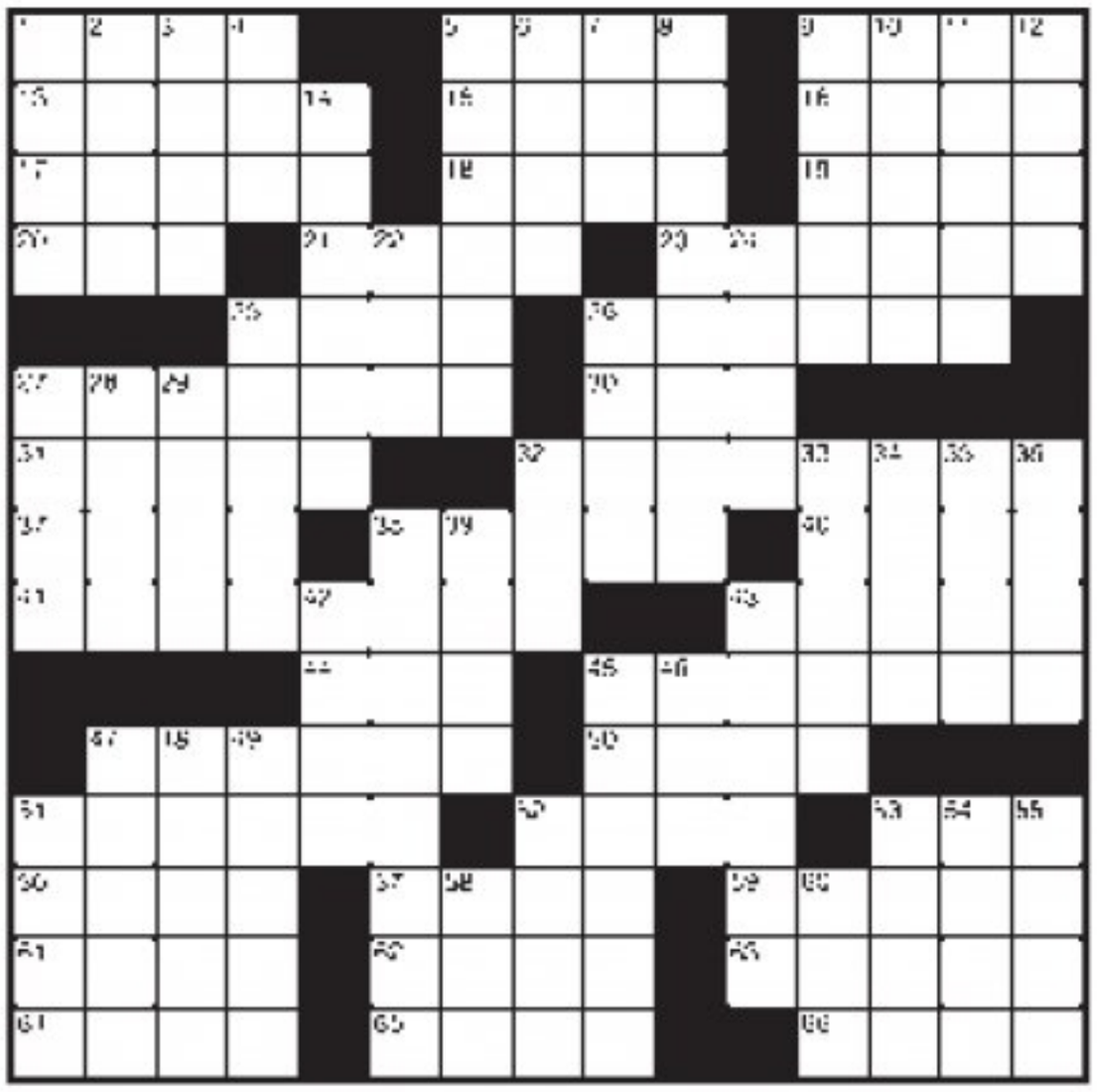

Across

1 Great dog?
5 51 quadrupled
9 Venetian-blind unit
13 Commuter's home
15 New Jersey town
16 Bygone Trevi coins
17 Oops' ride
18 Burnoose wearer
19 He wrote "Picnic"
20 PC key
21 Typewriter type
23 Suppose
25 Cabby
26 Least experienced
27 Ness, to Capone
30 The Plastic -- Band
31 Web habitues
32 Hens, at times
37 Marshall Dillon
38 Tastelessly showy
40 Water, in Tijuana
41 Trendy term
43 Handles
44 -- -Margret
45 Cracker go-withs
47 Peanut brittle base
50 John, in Germany
51 Bungalow
52 Sign up for
53 Derrick arm
56 Whaler of fiction
57 Flimsy
59 Shake off
61 Kind of bonnet
62 Chariot race locale
63 Guitars' ancestors
64 Orchard product
65 Subscription length
66 Mild expletives

Down

1 "-- Dinah" (Avalon tune)
2 Poles' connector
3 Now, to Caesar
4 Sea eagle
5 Rattles
6 Mr. Dithers' wife
7 Wyo. neighbor
8 Peppiness
9 Pizza order
10 Sausage variety
11 Jargon
12 Harold of the comics
14 Ignore
22 Pierre's here
24 Jedi ally
25 Car-rental agency
26 Kind of hog
27 Without feeling
28 Hairy twin
29 City on the Moselle
32 Bossy's chew
33 Jet routes
34 Teamwork obstacles
35 Cartoonist -- Goldberg
36 Back talk
38 Haywire (2 wds.)
39 Handel contemporary
42 Blow gently
43 Doghouse
45 Style of necklace
46 "Bali --"
47 Nevada lake
48 Port near Kyoto
49 Dietary plus
51 Sadie Hawkins Day founder
52 M.D.'s reading
53 Burlap material
54 -- fixe
55 Ms. Myerson
58 Job-ad letters
60 Drag along

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easy

3					6	2		
		2		8	3	5		4
		5	9		2			
						7		8
	6		1	4	7		2	
5		7						
			8		5	3		
9		4	3	7		6		
		8	2					9

hard

5				2		6	9	
3	7			5			8	
					4			
		7	9				2	6
	5		7		6		3	
1	6				2	4		
			8					
	4			9			1	8
	9	1		7				2

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Stay active and stick with it until you finish what you start. Leaving anything undone will lead to complaints and criticism. Show how valuable you are.

Taurus Get involved in something you find rejuvenating or helpful. Learn as you go and build experience that will encourage you to be a better person. Romance is highlighted.

Gemini Set reasonable goals and get into a routine that will help you reach them. Taking care of personal business and affairs of the heart will give you peace of mind.

Cancer Making last-minute decisions or changes based on your emotions will backfire. Keep your life simple and be moderate in all that you do. Protect partnerships.

Leo Don't hesitate. If you want something, go after it wholeheartedly. Strive for excellence in order to surprise and impress someone who can influence your future.

Virgo Changes at home could be unnerving and cause stress. Step back from whatever situation you face and consider what you want before moving forward.

Libra Keep your life simple in order to avoid backlash. Refuse to let anyone talk you into something you don't want to do. A change of heart will lead to a change in lifestyle.

Scorpio Positive changes at home or to your methods will help you establish what you want to do next personally and professionally. A move or lifestyle change is apparent.

Sagittarius Make a change that will encourage you to do what's best for you instead of acting in accordance with others' wishes. If you are true to yourself, you will excel.

Capricorn You'll be torn between what you want to do and what you should do. If you decide to make a move, be sure to seek any approval you may need as you go forward.

Aquarius Get in touch with someone from your past. It will remind you of old dreams and spark a renewed interest in something you used to enjoy doing.

Pisces Look for alternative ways to bring in more cash. You will have to make compromises to reach your goals. Put a set budget in place to help you excel. EUGENIA LAST

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ARE YOU EXPERIENCING POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION?

PRA Health Sciences in Marlton is now seeking mothers with postpartum depression for a clinical research study. Qualified participants for this study should be between ages 18 and 45, with postpartum symptoms for the past six months or less. In addition, participants should not be pregnant.

Those who qualify for this study may be compensated for their time and travel. Transportation is available. To learn more, visit volunteers.prahs.com or call 844-PRA-PINK (844-772-7465).

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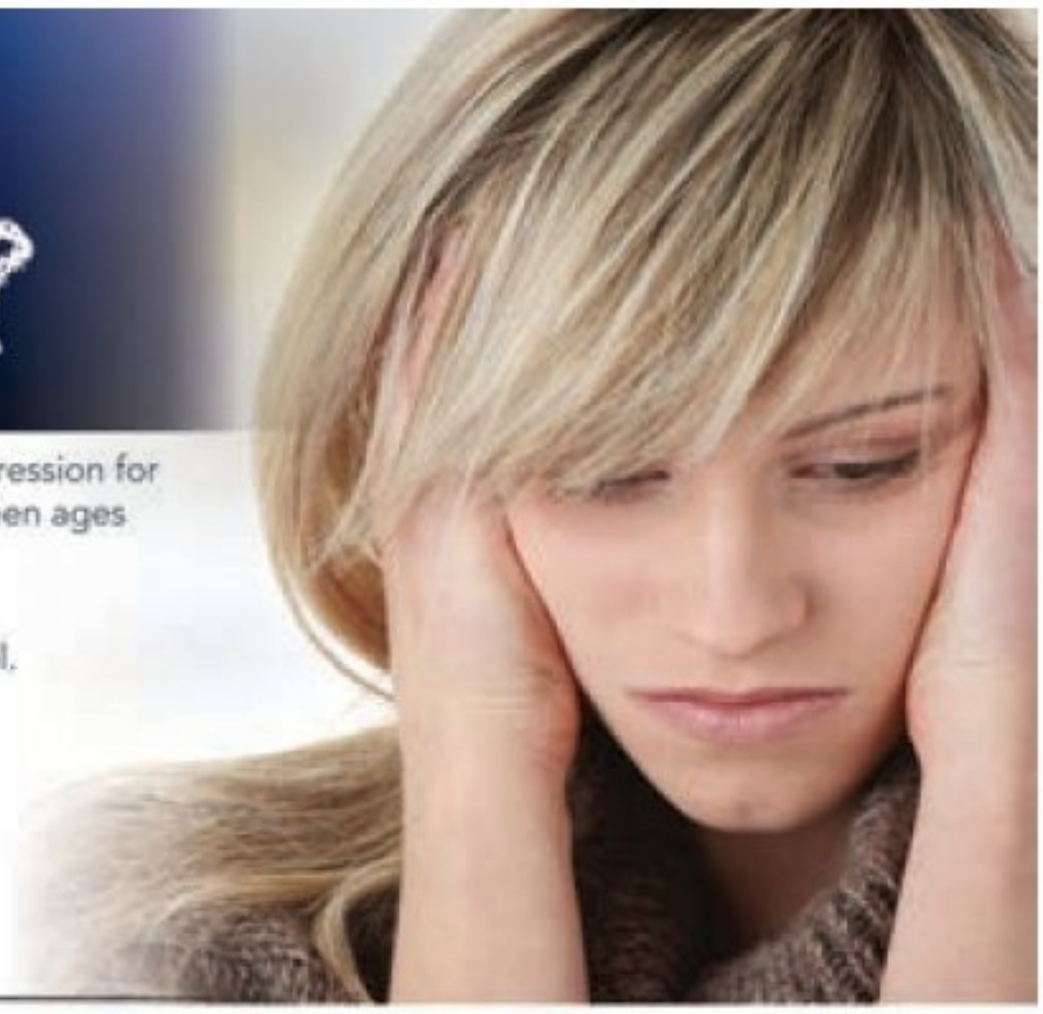

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